

***Testimony on Drug Policy
The Little Hoover Commission
Sacramento, CA, 9/26/02***

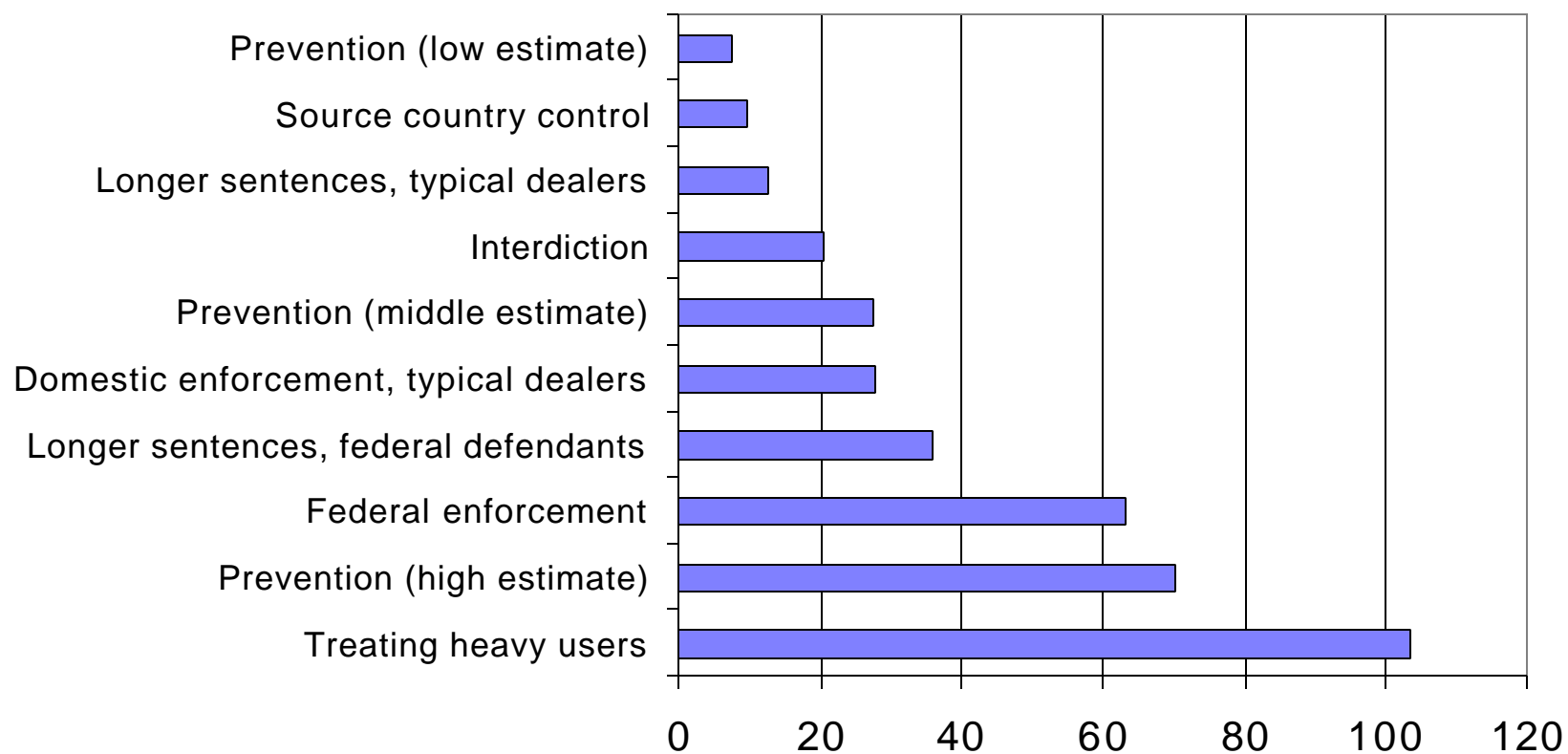
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Drug Policy Research Center (DPRC)

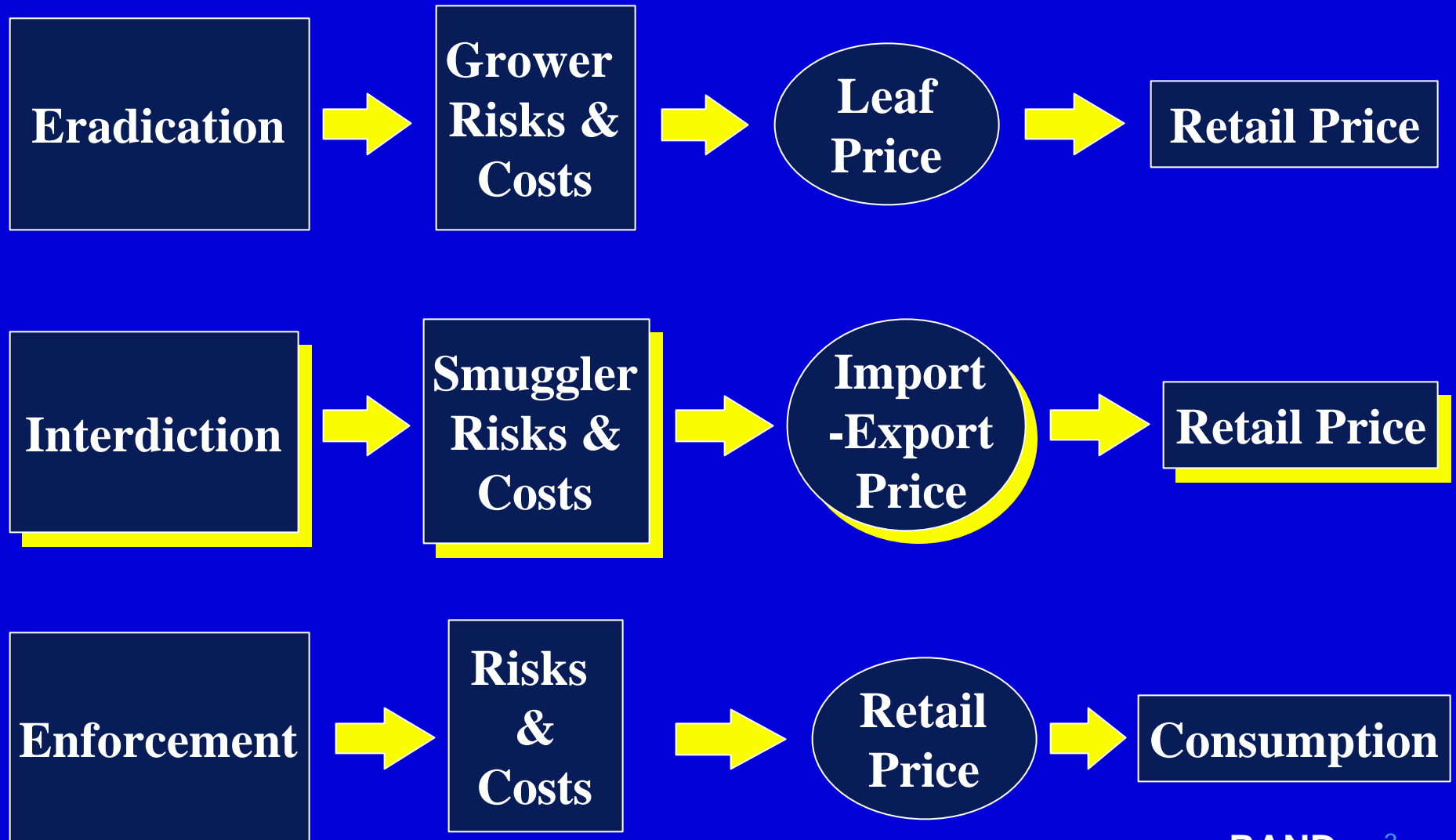
RAND

A Brief Overview of the RAND “Controlling Cocaine” Model

Cost-effectiveness at reducing cocaine consumption

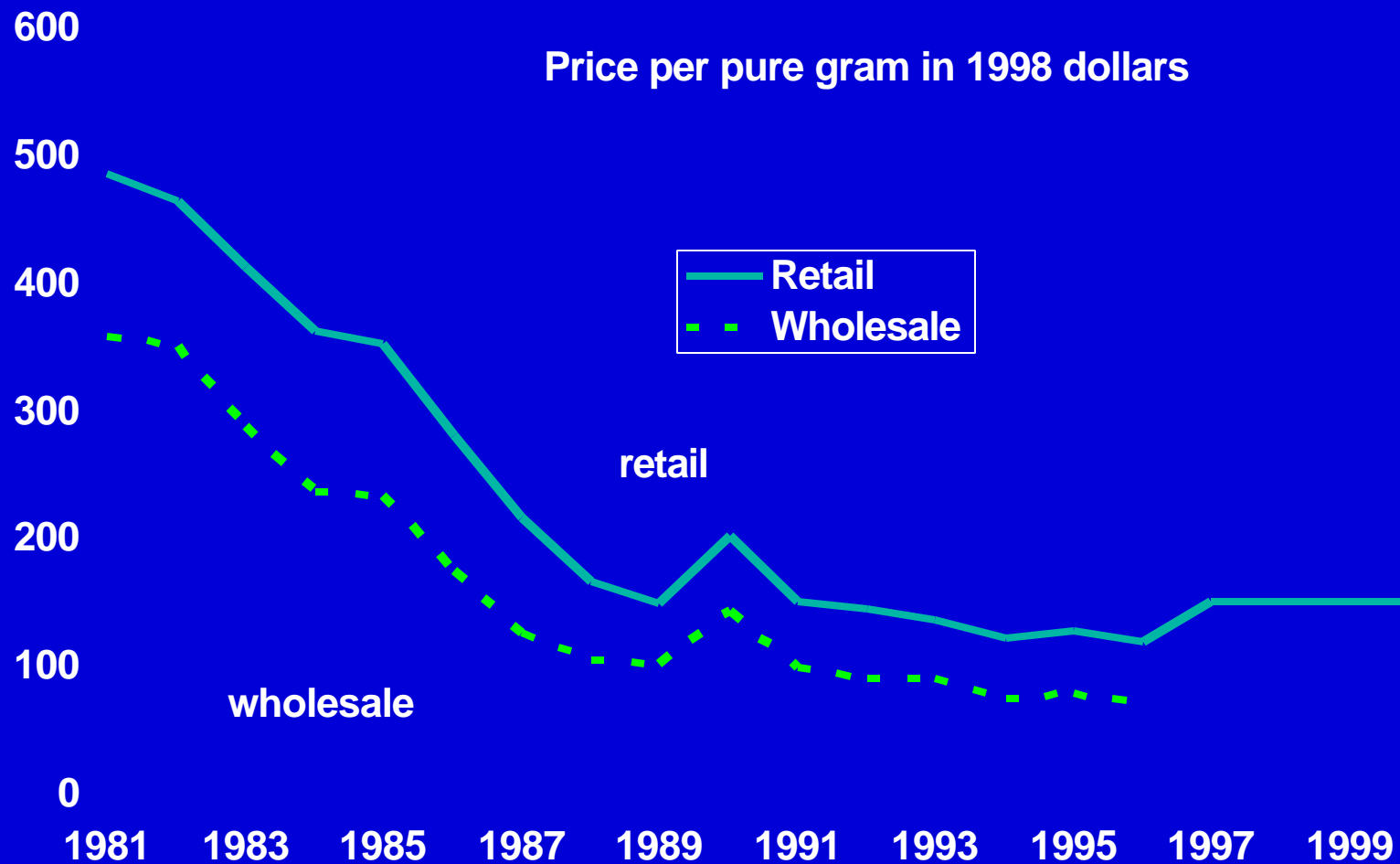


Enforcement Affects Consumption Through Price



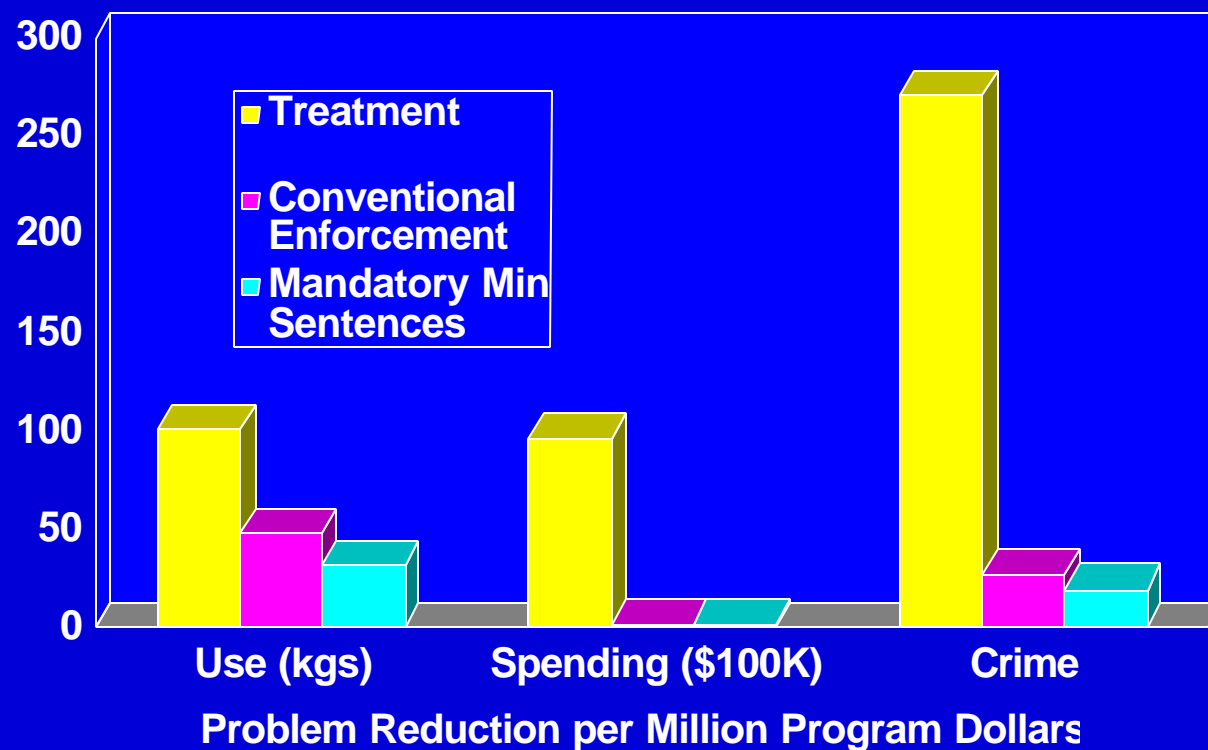
Cocaine Prices Declining

1981-2000

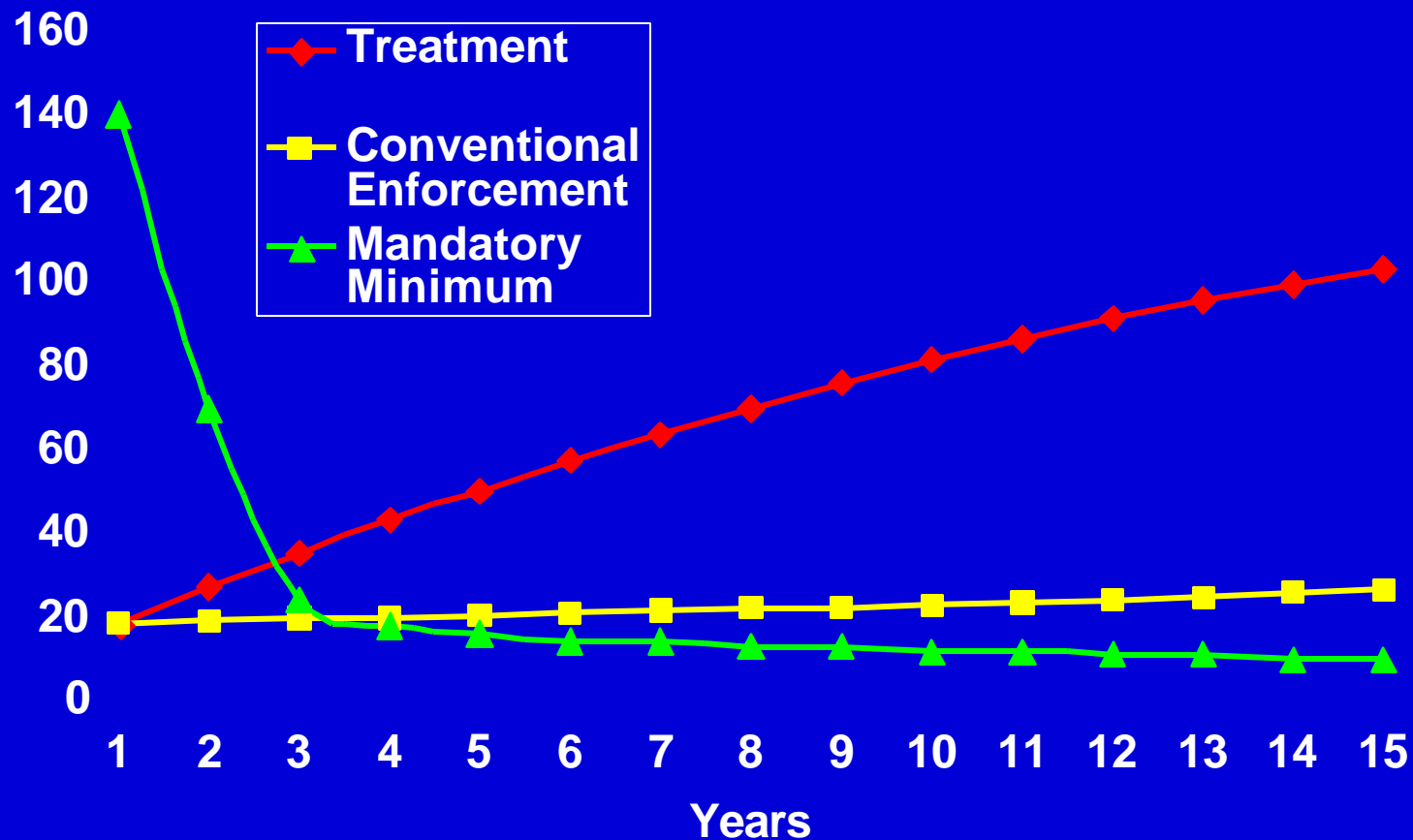


Source: ABT Associates Inc.

Treatment is Most Cost Effective Option by Several Measures



Different Evaluation Time Horizons Favor Different Drug Control Strategies



Dynamic versus Static Models and Epidemic Timing

- “Controlling Cocaine” is a static model of a mature epidemic. It does not provide optimal resource allocation advice for emerging drug epidemics.
- Dynamic models suggest that early in a new drug epidemic, prevention and conventional enforcement may be much more cost effective alternatives. Concurrently, treatment may be less effective and underutilized.
- As the epidemic matures, resources need to be shifted from supply reduction to demand reduction.

Dynamic Model Implications for Emerging Drug Epidemics

- While conventional enforcement may be a cost-effective option for emerging epidemics - this does not translate to a need for new legislation for each new problem drug.
- Instead - reallocate policing efforts to dismantle emerging drug supply networks.
- This requires a change in how policing efforts are evaluated - away from simple arrest counts to acknowledgement of the importance of information gathering and achievement of supply disruption.

Alcohol and nicotine policies need to be part of a comprehensive illicit drug control strategy

- There is significant scientific evidence that alcohol and marijuana are economic complements, not substitutes.
- There is additional evidence suggesting that alcohol and cocaine are economic complements.
- Cigarettes and marijuana also appear to be economic complements.

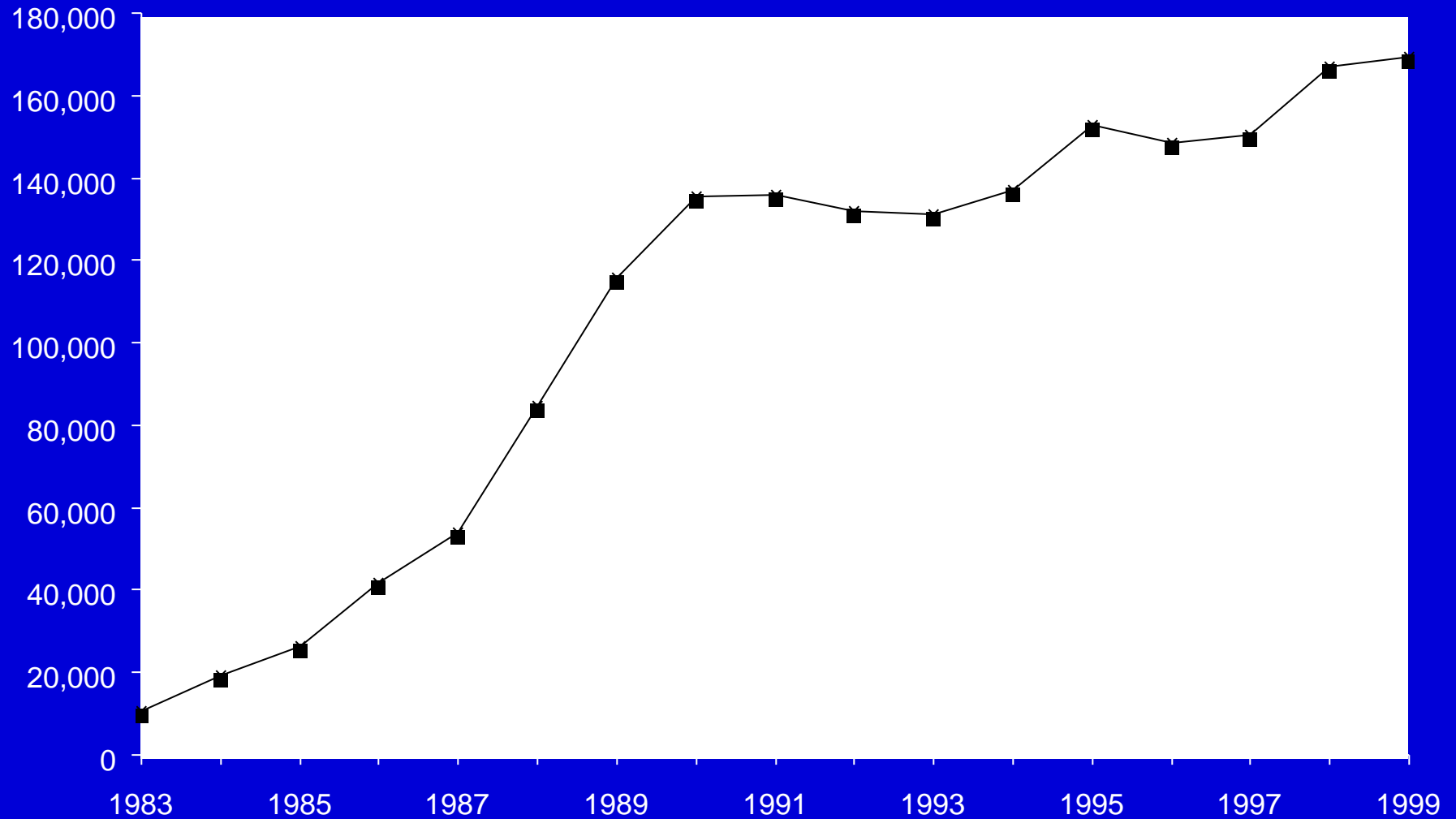
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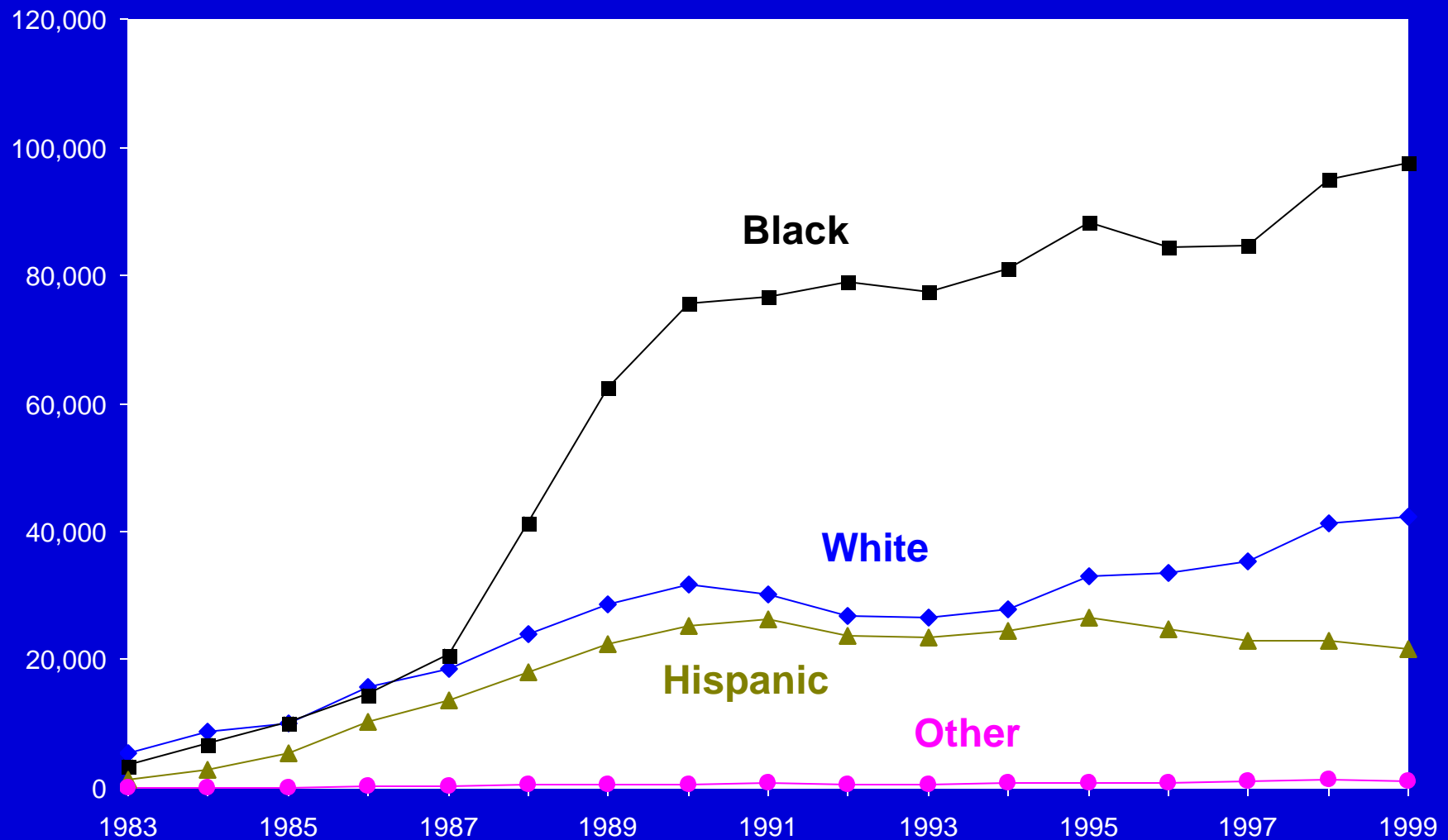
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***Collateral Damage:
Between 1983 and 1999, Admissions to Prison for a Drug
Offense Increased 16-Fold in the US***



The Increase in Drug Admissions Have Disproportionately Affected Blacks

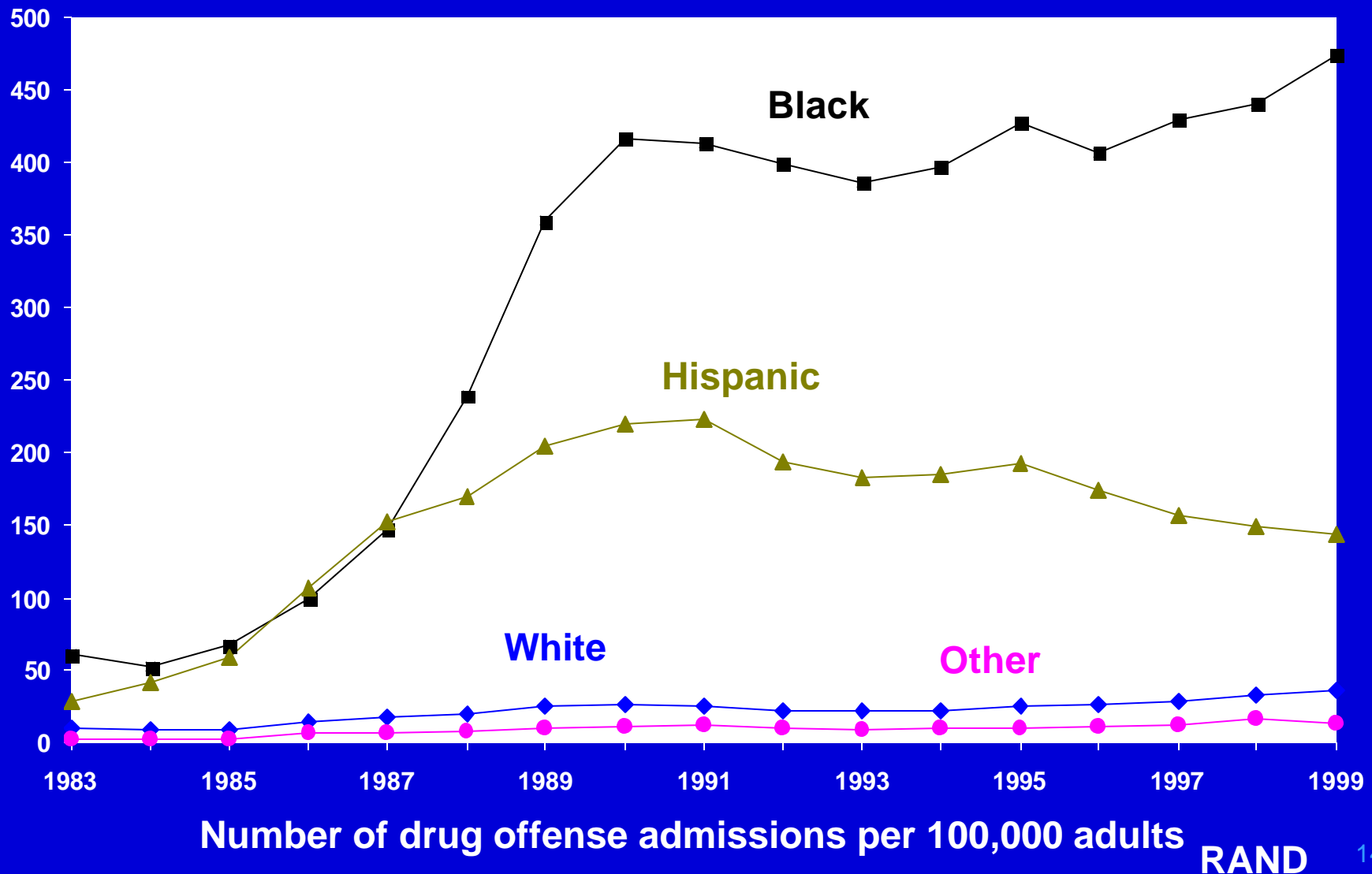


Number of drug offense admissions to U.S. prisons

RAND

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The Disproportion Is Even More Dramatic When Viewed on a Per Capita Basis



Per Capita Drug Admissions to Prison in California, 1983-1999, by Race

